

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, September 13, 2017, for the purpose of meeting with the Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS).

Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 8:07p.m. It was held in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Greenbelt Community Center.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Judith F. Davis, Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Edward V.J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Emmett V Jordan. Council Member Silke I. Pope was unable to attend due to illness.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Nicole Ard, City Manager and David E. Moran, Assistant City Manager.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Michael Gannon, PGCMLS Interim Co-CEO and Chief Operating Officer for Support Services, Michelle Hamiel, PGCMLS Interim Co-CEO and Chief Operating Officer for Public Services, Blane Halliday, PGCMLS Area Manager, Taylor Lore, UMCP Student, Molly Lester, Bill Orleans and Matt Arbach, News Review.

There were introductions. Mayor Jordan provided a history of the Greenbelt Library and its important role in the community.

Mayor Jordan asked about the PGCMLS CEO search. Ms. Hamiel responded that a search process was underway and that there were public input sessions planned.

Mayor Jordan asked for an overview of the Library System. Ms. Hamiel responded that their budget was about \$27 million/year. She indicated they offer more services than any other library system in the State, noting PGCMLS was first in the State to offer services like mobile Wi-Fi and virtual reality programming. Ms. Hamiel stated the Greenbelt Library is one of the highest circulating branches. She noted that staff was always looking for new services to offer customers.

Mayor Jordan stated he used the Library regularly and noted that the periodicals had shifted to DVDs and books on tape. Mr. Gannon indicated that the System was switching to more popular materials and formats. He indicated they were not trying to compete with research libraries and also noted that magazines were now available online. Mr. Gannon referenced streaming services and E-Books. He stated that patrons can check-out mobile hot spots and also indicated the Library would soon be circulating thermal cameras.

Mr. Gannon indicated that libraries were becoming more sustainable. He noted the new Laurel branch was a showplace. Mr. Gannon described the renovations to Greenbelt including the restrooms and a new elevator. He indicated there are new doors and windows and a new stucco exterior surface.

Mayor Jordan asked about mobile hot spots. Ms. Hamiel responded that these are being placed in communities where people do not have internet in their homes.

Ms. Davis noted that you can connect to the Wi-Fi outside the Library. Mr. Gannon responded that they leave this on deliberately. It was noted that a Library card is needed in order to access the Wi-Fi.

Mr. Herling was pleased with the Library's provision of digital opportunities. He asked about training

for folks without computer skills. Ms. Hamiel noted there were both one-on-one and classroom training for basic computer use and software training. Mr. Herling noted that through the Arts Council there were groups where people were producing films about what it's like to live in Prince George's County. Mr. Gannon indicated that the Library meeting rooms and study rooms are heavily used.

Mr. Gannon discussed their new downloadable app. He indicated you could put your Library card into the app and that the app can scan a ISBN code and determine if that particular book is available for loan. He distributed a jar opener that promoted the app.

Mayor Jordan asked about the area manager approach. Mr. Halliday responded this was going well.

Mr. Gannon indicated that Laurel had the highest circulation but Greenbelt is very competitive.

Mayor Jordan asked about the Historical Society use. Mr. Gannon responded it was a great partnership.

Mayor Jordan discussed the importance of the Tugwell Room. Mr. Gannon reported that the System had extra staff available to temporarily assign to the Tugwell Room and they haven't had a special librarian there for over 10 years. Ms. Hamiel stated that PGCMLS had worked to examine the collection for digitization. She indicated they can't catalog items in the collection without permission from the owner.

Mr. Roberts asked about what happens if the owner/photographer is deceased. Ms. Hamiel responded the estate or heirs can grant permission.

Mr. Roberts suggested that the Library didn't have the manpower to maintain the collection and should turn it over to the City.

There was discussion of the draft agreement to transfer the Tugwell Collection to the City if the Library system decides not to keep it. Mr. Gannon indicated that PGCMLS would sign the agreement.

Ms. Davis and Ms. Mach recalled that Betty Allen used to manage the Tugwell Room.

Ms. Lester reported there are people who regularly use the Tugwell Room. She noted that Library staff don't always require users to sign-in. Ms. Lester suggested the Library make the Tugwell Room more accessible.

Mr. Putens stated he was the executor of an estate who had a collection of old valuable books and asked if PGCMLS was interested. Mr. Gannon responded they need items that can be circulated. He recommended that Mr. Putens talk to the County historical society.

Mr. Moran offered the services of Megan Young, Museum Director, to assist with the Tugwell Collection by identifying items and their owners. Ms. Davis suggested a panel/sign outside the Tugwell Room along with a picture/bio of Rexford Tugwell.

Ms. Lester noted that some of the file folders have disintegrated and need to be updated.

Ms. Gannon indicated the Library needed to talk about the future of the collection.

Ms. Davis suggested a public signing of the agreement regarding the Tugwell Collection at a future Regular Council Meeting. Mr. Gannon requested a proclamation.

Mr. Roberts wanted an accurate list of the contents of the room.

Mr. Herling suggested the American Planning Association and the McKeldin Library as potential resources to assist with the Tugwell Collection.

Ms. Lester thanked PGCMLS for their willingness to sign the agreement.

Next Council discussed Sunday hours at the Greenbelt Library. Mayor Jordan noted the loss of Sunday hours would be bad for patrons. Mr. Gannon indicated that the New Carrollton Library was slated to reopen in July 2018. Ms. Hamiel stated the County only provides enough funding to help to keep seven branches open on Sunday. She indicated her thinking was that Greenbelt would not reduce its Sunday hours.

Ms. Davis asked about the Discover Books box in the parking lot. Mr. Gannon indicated the Friends of the Greenbelt Library receives so many donations and receives more than they can possibly store and sometimes they deposit books into the box. Council Member Mach indicated the shelves at the bookstore were bare. Mr. Gannon noted that the Friends group gets a first pick of any discarded books.

Mr. Herling suggested that the new app include the Tugwell Room.

Mayor Jordan asked what the City could do to help the Library system. Mr. Gannon noted that Greenbelt is the only municipality that charges the Library for false alarm fees.

Mr. Roberts noted a handicapped individual who asked Public Works to not plow snow onto the handicapped spaces.

The meeting ended at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*David E. Moran
Assistant City Manager*